

HAILSTONE

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Hailstone, or Elkhorn as it has been known at times, was homesteaded in 1864 and 1865 in an area about nine miles north of Heber. The original settlers were William Paret Hailstone, Ann Davis Hailstone, William Davis and William Denton Moulton. During the time of homesteading William Davis married Mary Goddard Collins and William Moulton married Mary Lee and then later Mary Ann Davis.

Each of the original settlers homesteaded large acreages. They built small, log homes until larger dwellings could be constructed. One of the most elegant homes was built in 1877 by William Moulton, who prospered in many business ventures.

The house was constructed from sandstone brought from the Lake Creek area. Two front bedrooms were for his wives Mary and Mary Ann. Between the bedrooms was a large, beautiful parlor. There were two staircases leading to the upper story which included several more bedrooms. The house had two bathrooms, a luxury for its day, a huge, almost



The first log house in Hailstone. Owned by William Davis. Shown here on the horse is Rex Blackley.

hired at the time.

In later years, changes in railroad policy and the development of powerful engines that would negotiate the mountain passes without help,

as well as diversion of traffic to other routes, brought the downfall of Soldiers Summit. Many of the railroad facilities were removed, and with them went the people.

Today the ghost town has only a school with 12 pupils and one teacher. The businesses are few, and depend entirely on highway traffic for their support.

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The site of Hailstone was settled about 1863 and was named for Stephen Hailstone who established a ranch there. Mr. Hailstone married Emily Davis the daughter of William Davis. Mr. William Davis came directly from Wiltshire, England to Hailstone in 1864 and lived there with his family most of his life. He was the presiding elder of that district, which included the country as far as Keetley, for some years.

Bishop Henry Cluff, Sr., who also presided over the district changed the name from Hailstone to Elkhorn. But the original name was taken back and is used today.

The Davis family still retains residence at Hailstone.

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